

116th IBCT NCOs finish first, second at NBWC

Kentucky and Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team took first and second place as the top noncommissioned officers in the country at the 2018 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition held July 24-27, 2018, at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. Sgt. Jordy Brewer, a Kentucky Soldier assigned to Barbourville, Kentucky-based 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Regiment, 116th IBCT finished first, and Sgt. Jake Moyer, a Virginia Soldier assigned to Winchester-based 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th IBCT came in second.

"I couldn't be more pleased by the performance of Sgt. Jordy Brewer and Sgt. Jake Moyer," said Col. Joseph Dinonno, commander of the 116th IBCT. "Their preparation and execution set the example for other Soldiers to follow. This also highlights the strong bond between Kentucky and Virginia as our respective battalions continue to share the hardships and camaraderie of an increasing training tempo."

Spc. Bailey Ruff with the South Dakota Army Guard earned the title of the Army National Guard Soldier of the Year.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/07/28/11791/>



Col. Joseph Dinonno and Command Sgt. Maj. Henry Motley, the 116th IBCT command team, present challenge coins to Sgt. Jordy Brewer and Sgt. Jake Moyer July 26, 2018, at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Virginia Air National Guard pilot is weapons school distinguished graduate

Virginia Air National Guard pilot received the distinguished graduate award at the United States Air Force Weapons School December 16, 2017, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/08/03/11838/>

ChalleNge Cadets earn GEDs early, accepted to apprenticeship program

Four Cadets from Class 49 of the Virginia Commonwealth ChalleNge Youth Academy earned their General Equivalency Diplomas, and were accepted into an apprenticeship program with the Virginia Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/07/26/11819/>

Pre-Warrant Officer Candidate Course scheduled for Aug. 24-26

The Fort Pickett-based Warrant Officer Candidate School, 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute is hosting a Pre-Warrant Officer Candidate Course Aug. 24-26, 2018.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/08/03/11822/>

New incentives announced for "Every Soldier is a Recruiter" program

The Virginia National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion has announced updated incentives for the "Every Soldier is a Recruiter" Program where Soldiers can earn incentives by providing leads.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/07/30/11723/>

Did You Know?

Fitness App Safe User Guide

Location-based fitness apps have made the news lately for endangering operational security and personal privacy. One app, Polar, shared information on 6,460 users from 69 countries and 208 sensitive locations like FBI offices, nuclear power plants and missile defense locations.

Read tips to protect yourself at

<https://go.usa.gov/xUE7q>.

Youth Programs hosts 13th annual Youth Camp

More than 80 children of Virginia National Guard members attended the 13th annual Virginia National Guard Youth Camp July 23-27, 2018, at Camp Pendleton State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

"We teach a lot of life skills, resilience and leadership," said Joe Duerksen, Lead Child and Youth Coordinator with Virginia National Guard Family Programs. "We do educational activities and take them offsite to Ocean Breeze and Busch Gardens. It's just a really fun, active week for National Guard dependents to come together."

Representatives from Nauticus and Winchester STARBASE Academy provided educational opportunities throughout the week. The theme for this year's camp was "Heroes Among Us" so in addition to learning how to make a ghillie suit and practicing some of the basics of military drill and ceremony, campers received a first-hand look at some of the vehicles and equipment their parents use while on duty for the National Guard.

"Each year we try to reach out to other partners in the military," Duerksen said. "We could not hold this camp without the support of National Guard units. This year we had a great showing from the 34th CST [Civil Support Team] and the 529th CSSB [Combat Sustainment Support Battalion]. The 203rd RED HORSE was gonna help us out but it got rained out. The Recruiting and Retention Battalion comes out every year."

In addition to the support from military units, Duerksen said the camp also wouldn't be possible without the support of teen and adult volunteers.

"We have about 30-35 adult volunteers who come out every year," Duerksen said. "We could not run the program without them. We have some that are volunteering for the first time with us and some who have been here for 11 or 12 years."

Duerksen said the adult volunteers do everything from chaperoning in the barracks to photography to chaperoning the kids around in groups.

"They are the supervision of the camp," he explained. "They are also the lifeblood and heartbeat of it. They make sure the kids are safe and having fun."

In addition to the adults, the camp features a number of high school teens who volunteer, many of whom have been attending the camp since they were kids.

The teen volunteers arrive to camp a day early for leadership training and during camp they each get the opportunity to act as leaders and as an extra set of eyes for the adults.

"Each night they meet, they debrief, they talk about the day, they talk about how their leadership skills are impacting their ability to lead the kids," he said. "They talk about how they can become better leaders in life after camp. They have all just done a fantastic job helping us here at this camp."

Although heavy rains fell in Virginia Beach through most of the week, it didn't slow down the camp. Instead they took a number of activities indoors and, according to Duerksen, it was another successful camp.



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"This camp is the only camp in Virginia like this and, to my knowledge, the only camp like this on the East Coast that brings together National Guard dependents, Air and Army, from all over the state to show them what the Guard is like," Duerksen said. "Many of these kids don't get to see each other throughout the year so this is the only chance they get to see what other National Guard families are like."

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/08/07/11828/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Photos: Air Assault kicks off at Fort Pickett

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157696793694532/>

Photos: Aviation battalion welcomes new commander

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157698238911221/>

Photos: ChalleNGe hosts family day, alumni reunion

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157693937993860/>

116th IBCT on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/116thIBCT/>

Youth Programs on Facebook

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